

CLAS Finance Committee Agenda
Friday, October 22, 3:00 p.m.

Present:

John Palmer (Chair), Tarek Saab, Galia Hatav, Daniel Talham, Jorge Valdes Kroff (Assistant Secretary), Matthieu Felt, Jose Ponciano Castellanos, Chris McCarty, Uma Sethuram, Fahad Qazi (Student Rep), Catherine Tucker (Secretary)

1. Call to order and approval of minutes from previous meeting.
 - Meeting called to order 3:02 pm
 - Minutes approved unanimously

JP proposes that we reverse the order of agenda items 2 and 3, all agree. The subsequent minutes show the new order of agenda items.

2. Procedure for reviewing unit OPS budget requests.
 - Presentation of a proposed procedure by chair (JP)
 - Stage 1 – identify targeted reductions (“low hanging fruit”)
 - Stage 2 – establish a formula and tiers for % reduction
 - First step is trying identify uses of OPS funding that are not clearly in line with the primary goal of supporting undergrad education (directly) – but it is usefully pointed out that “delivering student SCH and advancing graduate education, are significantly more impactful...”.
 - Discussion on specific questions regarding OPS requests:
 - Federal work study undergrads are a bargain, okay to allow in departments.
 - Example: History needs front desk coverage as it has only one staff person. Also possible that some can use UF student assistants for grading – such as writing center.
 - Economics receives no OPS, has their own budget
 - Humanities does not receive OPS
 - Review of implications of loss of DL fees: The loss of these fees has greatly impacted certain departments that were proactive in developing online majors, and which also allowed (until recently) residential students to take online courses too. A major point is that this was part of a larger effort by UF Online to expand online majors online. This requires courses in all of the courses required for a major plus a few electives. The online majors have not turned out to be large enrollers.
 - Question concerning Adjuncts
 - They don’t count as students or faculty; should OPS requests for adjuncts factor into our decision? Some departments may differ on why they hire adjuncts, e.g., LLC
 - Chris McCarty reminds us that the OPS funds primary functions are:
 - Undergraduate mission
 - Fund graduate students

- Chair recommends going ahead with stage 1 reviews of OPS requests, 2 member teams reviewing a set of budget requests
3. Finalization of request for additional information from the College.
- Proposal: include degree production/completion rates for a department as a criterion (then we need this data to be requested of CLAS)
 - CLAS will look into total requests for OPS so that we have the total amount requested, and can then figure out what we need to cut to get to 17M
 - Chris McCarty will try to respond to our requests as best as possible
4. AOB --Additional Context and Discussion
- This process may not be feasible to complete by December although still a worthy goal.
 - Departments will still have choices about how to allocate the amount of funding that they receive. Committee may recommend some reductions, department still gets to choose actual allocations.
 - Committee assignment for next meeting: review unit OPS budget requests in groups. We don't need to be draconian in our suggestions, but we should look for obvious outliers
 - E.g., outlier of # of RAships
 - John Palmer will send follow-up message with group assignments